



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Western District of Tennessee

800 Federal Office Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Ph: (901) 544-4231
Fax: (901) 544-4230
TTY: (901) 544-3054

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 17, 2001**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT: LEIGH ANNE JORDON
(901) 544-4321**

Law Enforcement and Advocates Join Together for Domestic Violence Training

MEMPHIS, TN-Officials representing law enforcement, family violence shelters, victim advocacy and crises intervention teams from West Tennessee and North Mississippi begin a four day training on Monday, August 20 covering the issue of Domestic Violence. The conference is hosted by the Mid-South Training Institute of the University of Memphis and by Lawrence J. Laurenzi, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee.

The four-day training will address issues of victim and officer safety, evidence gathering, legal issues, the dynamics at play in abusive relationships, and the elements of a coordinated community response to crimes of domestic abuse. By hosting officers and civilians together, the training is underlining the importance of teamwork within communities. The training coordinator, Amy Ostermeier, stated "Working together and sharing information are key components to reducing domestic violence in any community. These types of collaborative trainings help all the key players better understand their job in relation to one another. The more information that an officer or an advocate has about a particular situation, the less likely we are to have a fatality."

Sponsored by the University of Tennessee's Southeastern Community Oriented Policing Education (SCOPE), the course examines how to reduce homicides and better hold batterers accountable by practicing principles of community oriented policing. SCOPE, a regional community policing institute that serves the Southeast region of the United States, is a partnership between the University of Tennessee and the Police Department of the City of Knoxville, TN. The training is free to the participants and a number of hotel rooms were made available to those traveling long distances. SCOPE received a grant from the Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing to conduct the training. This training will travel to Arkansas, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee. Please contact the SCOPE Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, Amy Ostermeier at (865) 215-1340 for questions.